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EUROPE

1. GERMANY: East German Army reportedly being formed.

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[redacted] the mounting intensity of the propaganda campaign in the German Soviet-licensed press, contending that German rearmament in the western zones is an accomplished fact, is setting the stage for decisive developments in establishing a "People's Army" for Eastern Germany.

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[redacted] official announcement of the organization of a "People's Army" cannot be put off indefinitely in view of the accumulating evidence of the existence of such a force and, in support of this belief, reports that: (a) whereas the paramilitary Bereitschaften (Alert Police) prior to August 1949 maintained a semblance of police character, all pretense has now been dropped; (b) a recent reorganization has, in effect, placed control of the Bereitschaften and its training schools beyond the jurisdiction of German governmental authorities; and (c) the Bereitschaften has been deprived of its police character and is now in the chain of command of the Soviet occupation army in East Germany.

(CIA Comment: Although there is no conclusive evidence available that the USSR and German Communist officials are creating or arming a military force of Eastern Germans, CIA believes that a force is being trained which will develop military capabilities exceeding those envisaged for German police in occupation agreements. CIA further believes that: (a) the immediate purpose of the Bereitschaften is to serve as a paramilitary apparatus to discourage or suppress violent opposition to continued Communist control; and (b) it is entirely possible that the organization may be used eventually as a cadre for an East German Army.)

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